TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 12, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 6, totaled 19.3 billion ton-miles, up 5.5 percent from the 18.3 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 31 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 588.7 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 6 totaled 425,785, up 5.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 1.9 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.4 percent in the East, and 8.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 13 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores were up 6,085 cars (45.7 percent); coal increased by 6,860 cars (5.8 percent); but grain was down 538 cars (1.8 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended July 30 totaled 113,119 trailers and/or containers, up 5.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 30 weeks of the year was 3,253,540 trailers and/or containers, up 5.4 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/6/88:

	Loadings in Week ended August 6, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,203	D	538	1.8	I	574	2.0
Other farm products	2,452	D	365	13.0	D	34	1.4
Metallic ores	19,393	I	6,085	45.7	D	1,449	7.0
Coal	124,460	I	6,860	5.8	D	1,668	1.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,882	I	712	3.9	D	358	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	10,953	I	752	7.4	D	506	4.4
Grain mill products	10,498	I	34	0.3	D	266	2.5
Food and kindred products	10,986	D	9	0.1	D	524	4.6
Primary forest products	9,538	D	935	8.9	D	43	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,473	D	1,219	15.8	D	1,449	18.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,008	D	410	3.3	D	288	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,605	I	1,610	6.2	I	362	1.3
Petroleum products	5,506	I	617	12.6	I	622	12.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,446	I	52	0.5	D	277	2.4
Coke	6,027	I	1,011	20.2	D	323	5.1
Metals and products	10,346	I	971	10.4	D	722	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,439	I	944	6.5	I	205	1.3
Waste and scrap materials	9,545	I	942	10.9	D	412	4.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,548	D	523	17.0	D	124	4.6
All other carloads	82,477	I	3,494	4.4	D	1,600	1.9
Total Cars Loaded	425,785	I	20,085	5.0	D	8,280	1.9
Corresponding week of 1987	405,700						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (31 weeks)	13,020,261	12,307,958	I 5.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
30 weeks ended July 30	569.5	528.2	I 7.8
Week ended August 6	19.3	18.3	I 5.5
31 Weeks cumulative	588.7	546.4	I 7.7

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